

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01719 071618Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 NIC-01 /121 W
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R 071535Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7686
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION UN
USDOCOSOUTH
EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1719

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS CY

SUBJECT: "DEMOCRATIC CONFRONTATION" IN CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 1709

SUMMARY: PIO OUTLINES CONDITIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.
EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN GRIVAS AND MRS VAKIS.
MAKARIOS ATTACKS GRIVAS AGAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS AUGUST 7 GAVE FURTHER DETAILS RE YESTERDAYS PIO
STATEMENT THAT MAKARIOS PREPARED TO PROCLAIM PRESIDENTIAL ELEC-
TIONS IF GRIVAS WILL ABANDON ILLEGAL ACTIVITY AND SUBMIT TO
POPULAR VERDICT VIA "DEMOCRATIC CONFRONTATION." PIO SPECIVICALLY
REJECTED AS BLACKMAIL GRIVAS IDEA OF CARETAKE GOVERNMENTS FOR
THIS PURPOSE, NOTING THAT ANY NEW ELECTION WOULD BE HELD ON BASIS
PRESENT GOVERNMENT. PIO ASSURED THAT GRIVAS WOULD HAVE USE
OF RADIO AND TV, BUT ADDED THAT CBC WOULD NOT BE USED FOR
PROPAGANDIZING VIOLENCE AGAINST GOC (CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01719 071618Z

CBC WOULD UNILATERALLY DECIDE WHAT GRIVAS MATERIAL TO BROAD-

CAST). FINALLY, PIO SAID MAKARIOS WOULD NOT REQUIRE GRIVAS TO DISARM HIS ILLEGAL BANDS, NOR REGARD THE MATTER OF INDIVIDUALS PRESENTLY SOUGHT FOR ANTI-REGIME VIOLENCE AS BARRIER TO ELECTIONS. (SIGNIFICANTLY, IN SAME BRIEFING, PIO ALSO CATEGORICALLY REJECTED CLAIM THAT GRIVAS FORCES NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING AMBUSCADE FOR MAKARIOS IN TROODOS LAST WEEK. PRESS TODAY TENDS TO HIGHLIGHT IN TANDEM ELECTION PROSPECTS AND AMBUSH SITE.)

2. AUG 7 GRIVASITE MOUTHPIECE "ETHNIKI" PRINTS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN WIFE ABDUCTED MINISTER VAKIS AND GENERAL, MRS VAKIS ASSURES GRIVAS THAT HER HUSBAND WILL ON HIS OWN OFFER RESIGN IF GRIVAS REALLY BELIEVES THIS STEP WILL SERVE OUR "ETERNAL ASPIRATIONS", GRIVAS REPLIES THAT VAKIS CORESPONSIBLE FOR GOC PRACTICES AGAINST ENOSISTS AND SHOULD HAVE RESIGNED IF HE DISAGREED WITH THEM. ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT LETTER FROM MRS VAKIS NOT PUBLISHED AS SHE WROTE IT; SHE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED GRIVAS REPLY. NEVERTHELESS, REAL OR FABRICATED, COMBINATION OF TWO LETTERS IS CLEAR MESSAGE TO OTHERS IN GOC TO RESIGN OR FACE PROSPECT SIMILAR ABDUCTION. GRIVAS STATES THAT VAKIS LIFE IN NO DANGER "FROM US" BUT IMPLIES HE MAY BE HELD INDEFINITELY. (IN RESPONSE RELEASED THIS NOON, MAKARIOS AGAIN PERSONALLY ATTACKED GRIVAS, SAYING GENERAL SHOULD RELEASE MINISTER IF HE HAS ANY SHRED OF MILITARY HONOR LEFT.) FINALLY SAME ISSUE "ETHNIKI" ANNOUNCES GENERAL WILL SHORTLY PUBLISH MAKARIOS LETTERS RE "IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CYPRUS PROBLEM".

3. COMMENT: WE DOUBT EITHER MAKARIOS OR GRIVAS HAS INTEREST IN PUSHING IDEA OF "DEMOCRATIC CONFRONTATION" TO LOGICAL CONCLUSION. OUR READING OF GOC CONSTITUTION SUGGESTS ONLY LEGAL WAY FOR MAKARIOS TO CONDUCT EXTRAORDINARY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WOULD BE TO RESIGN FROM OFFICE, HAVE CLERIDES ASSUME DUTIES OFPRESIDENCY, AND HAVE ELECTIONS WITHIN 45 DAYS. THOUGH INTRIGUING AS THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY, WE DOUBT MAKARIOS WOULD RELINQUISH POWER FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME, OR THAT GENERAL WOULD ACCEPT A "DEMOCRATIC CONFRONTATION" OF PERSONALITIES--THE CORNER INTO WHICH MAKARIOS STATEMENTS ARE TRYING TO PUSH HIM. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 01719 071618Z

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